



Interreg



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Central Baltic Programme

TwinReg

22.10.2026. TwinReg Final Conference: Connected by the Gulf of Finland

The Big Picture

Connecting Europe Facility, Trans-European Transport Network Policy, Military Mobility and possible next steps

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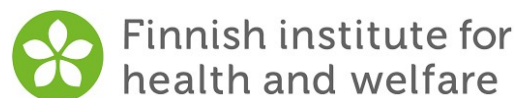
Helsinki EU Office's member organisations (10)



HELSINKI REGION
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



AMMATTIKORKEAKOULU
University of Applied Sciences



Main messages:

1. Now is the time to be active: Funding instruments (CEF, ECF, NRPP and mil.mob) are being prepared
2. National elections in Finland and in Estonia offer momentum – offer a concrete plan and (funding) solutions! Find your national political champions for pushing the agenda
3. Create / structure cross-border cooperation so that it enhances European and national advocacy efforts and works as a platform development

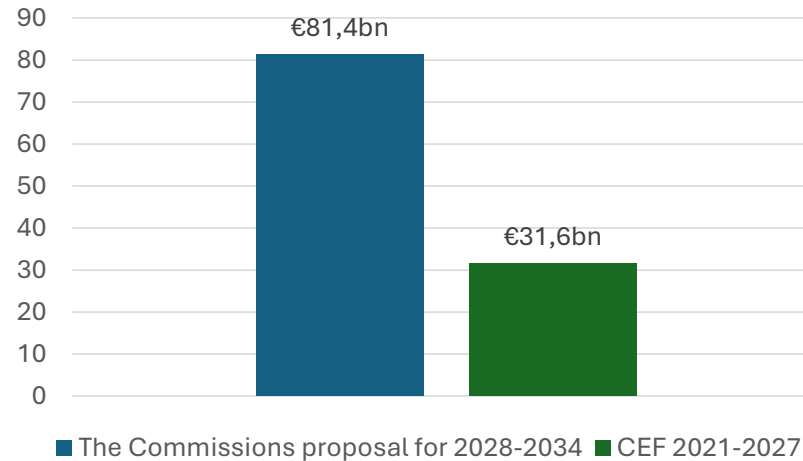


Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)

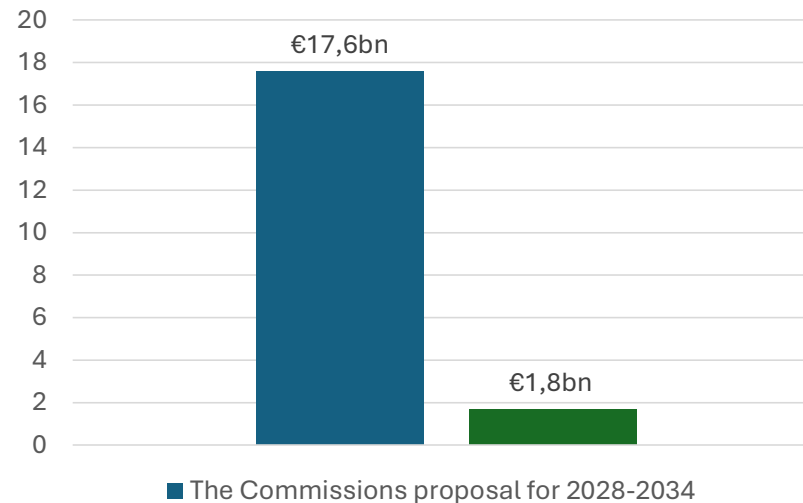
Timeline

- **On 16 July 2025**, the European Commission proposed €81.4bn for the CEF. €33.9bn for transport, €29.9bn for energy and **€17.6bn for military mobility**.
- **On 23 June 2026**, the BUDG Committee adopted its opinion. **The committee recommends to increase the envelope from €81.4 billion to €91.3 billion.**
- **The Irish Presidency's negotiating box**, published on **10 October 2026**, would reduce the proposed CEF transport envelope, including military mobility, **from €51.5bn to €45.7bn** (both in current prices). This represents a **reduction of around 11%, compared with an 8% reduction in the overall proposed EU budget.**
- The next steps for the CEF include:
 - **Finalisation of Parliament's position**
 - **Council's agreement on the MFF**
 - **Trilogue negotiations**
 - **Adoption of the CEF Regulation as part of the 2028–2034 MFF package.**
- **Since the Commission has proposed such substantial increases to the CEF and especially to its Military Mobility, it is crucial to advocate against the proposed reductions of the CEF budget in the next MFF.** This requires advocacy both in Brussels and in the Member States.

Development of the CEF (Current prices)

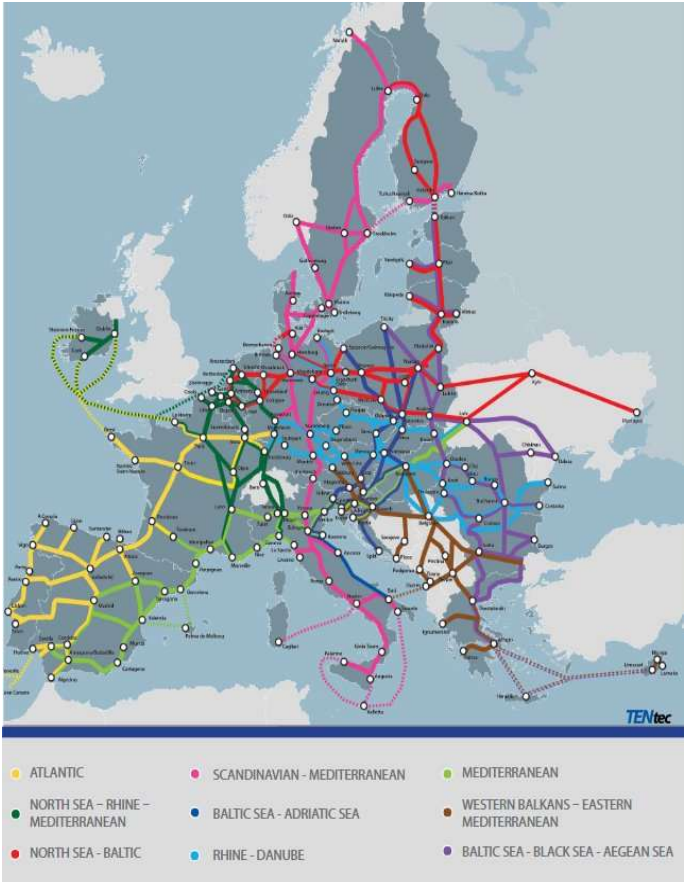


The development of the CEF's Military Mobility (Current prices)



Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)

- The EU's trans-European transport network (TEN-T) is an instrument for planning and developing a high-quality transport infrastructure across the EU.
- The TEN-T network consists of three layers:
 - The **core network** includes the most important connections between major cities and nodes, and must be **completed by 2030**.
 - The **extended core network** needs to be completed in **2040**.
 - The **comprehensive network** needs to be completed by **2050**.
- The 2024 TEN-T revision retained **nine corridors** but substantially redesigned them, including connections to neighbouring countries such as Ukraine and Moldova.
- Finland and Estonia are connected to three TEN-T corridors: **North Sea–Baltic**, **Scandinavian–Mediterranean** and **Baltic Sea–Aegean Sea**.

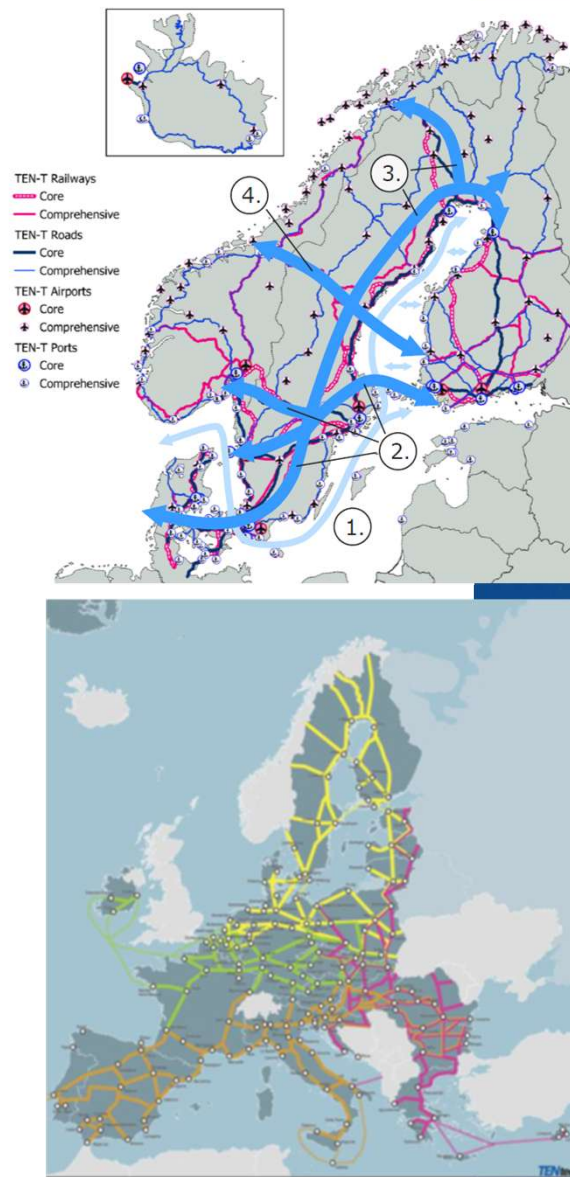


North Sea — Baltic Corridor	
FI - EE - LV - LT - PL	<u>Tampere - Helsinki</u> - Tallinn - Riga - Vilnius - Warszawa (covering Rail Baltica)
DE - PL	Berlin - Szczecin
DE - PL	Berlin - Frankfurt-an-der- ~~(Oder)~~ - Poznań - <u>Warszawa</u>
Scandinavian — Mediterranean Corridor	
DE - AT - IT	<u>München</u> - <u>Innsbruck</u> - Verona (covering the Brenner Base tunnel)
DK - DE	<u>København</u> - Copenhagen - Lübeck (covering the Fehmarn <u>Belt fixed link</u> tunnel)
SE - FI	Umeå - Luleå - Oulu (Bothnian corridor)
SE - FI	<u>Stockholm</u> - <u>Turku</u> - <u>Helsinki</u>
SE - NO	Stockholm - Oslo
SE - NO	<u>Göteborg</u> - <u>Oslo</u>
SE - NO	<u>Luleå</u> - <u>Narvik</u>



Military Mobility

- **Military Mobility is an EU initiative** to ensure swift and seamless movement of military personnel, materiel and assets, including at short notice and at large scale within and beyond the EU.
- After Russia's attack on Ukraine, the EU launched the **Military Mobility Action Plan 2.0**.
 - In March 2025, the EU identified **four Priority Military Mobility Corridors**. For Finland and Estonia, the **Northern** and **Eastern** Corridors.
 - For the development of the corridors, the Commission has identified also around **500 "hotspot" projects to remove critical bottlenecks on priority military mobility corridors**.
- The Commission supports the action plan with **funding instruments such as the Connecting Europe Facility** and the European Defence Fund.
- **The Joint Nordic Strategy for Transport System Preparedness (FI, SE, NO, DK, IS)** aims to strengthen Nordic military mobility by developing key cross-border road, rail and maritime corridors. **The Baltic States are currently not part of the initiative.**



Conclusions and next steps: The Gulf of Finland

Messages for the Estonian and Finnish elections, and for their future governments:

1. Support a strong CEF in the MFF negotiations for 2028-2034
2. Develop a Joint Transport Preparedness Strategy for Finland, the Baltic States and Poland.
3. Prioritize common strategic cross-border projects

For Helsinki-Uusimaa and Tallinn regions and cities:

1. Establish cooperation formats, a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) could be a vehicle for structuring
 1. Advocacy work: In the EU and towards national governments
 2. Project planning – as EU funding will be tied to cross-border projects
2. Be active on the national and European levels: Engage with decision makers that have influence on the EU's work programmes which guide funding



This is what AI produced in 38s..

